



Puget Sound Shellfish Unit
Port Townsend Office * 375 Hudson Street * Port Townsend, WA 98368
Phone: (360) 302-3030 * Fax: (360) 302-3031

April 27, 2022

Dear Puget Sound Commercial Shrimp Pot Fishers:

Attached are the season opening letter, a table of spot and non-spot shrimp harvest quotas, recreational and commercial targets, and a map of fishery harvest areas for the 2022 shrimp pot fishery. This year Regions 2W and 2E management plans have not yet been agreed-to and negotiations are ongoing. The harvest quotas for Regions 2W and 2E are last year's quotas and are unlikely to change. Harvest quotas in Regions 1 and 3 have been adopted by the State and Tribes.

Also enclosed are the season opening emergency (temporary) regulations that pertain to the 2022 commercial shrimp pot fishery, for your reference. Both permanent and emergency rules must be read together for a complete understanding of the 2022 season regulations. For example, the emergency rule currently in effect, a copy of which is enclosed, indicates the opening date and time for the shrimp pot and trawl fisheries, whereas permanent rules do not regulate such dates. The updates to commercial permanent rules that we notified you about in January were reviewed and approved by the commission in February and are now in effect. The language of those changes can be accessed on the [Department's website](#). The legislative webpage should be updated in the near future to reflect these updates but unfortunately does not reflect them currently. Please review the regulatory provisions and the rules and contact us if you have questions. All of these materials and links to them will be available on the new commercial shrimp website which will be made public in the near future.

News for the 2022 season:

Additional Pot Limits

Harvesters are now permitted to use up to 100 pots for spot shrimp and up to 100 pots for non-spot shrimp fishing concurrently.

Gear Labeling

Harvesters are once again required to label their gear with the number of pots attached to the ground line as well as the type of pots that are deployed (spot or non-spot). Harvesters do not need to write the details directly on the buoy surface but do need communicate the required details in a clear and legible fashion. A tag may be attached to the buoy with the required information – *please **do not** recycle crab buoy tags for this purpose.*

Quota Changes

Spot Region 3 Quota

Per agreement with tribal co-managers, we are targeting additional quota in Region 3 for spot shrimp in subarea 23A Central and MFSF Catch Area 23B, the majority of which has been incorporated into the commercial target. Please refer to the enclosed shrimp share table for the initial proposed 2022 State commercial harvest shares in each area of Puget Sound.

Non-spot Region 1 Subregions and Quota

The non-spot shrimp quota is now broken up amongst the individual subregions of 1A, 1B, and 1C sub-areas of region 1 – the same quota area boundaries used in region 1 for spot shrimp. The previous non-spot pot quota was split between subregions 1B and 1C based on harvest over the last 5 years and an additional 5,000 pounds are now available for harvest in 1A. See harvest quota table for information regarding each of these subregions.

Subregion 1A and Subarea 23A East Non-spot Season Opening

Subregion 1A and Subarea 23A East will open to non-spot harvest at the start of the season this year after substantial work with the co-managers. A proportion of non-spot trips into these areas will require Department staff on-board to characterize the catch and handling of bycatch. Harvesters that have declared a non-spot trip for Subregion 1A or Subarea 23A East will be contacted by Department staff to coordinate a ride-along.

Voluntary Ridealongs

Department staff are looking for opportunities to ride along during commercial shrimp pot harvest. Declarations that harvesters make with trips may be used to solicit ride-along opportunities for both spot shrimp and non-spot shrimp trips. Additionally, please reach out if you would be willing to take staff out while fishing.

PS Shrimp Pot Fisheries in Rockfish Incidental Take Permit (ITP)

Last year we notified you that the Department requested coverage of Puget Sound shrimp pot fisheries with an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) application for potential take of three species of rockfish (Boccacio, Canary, and Yelloweye) listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act. The review of the submitted ITP is still ongoing. Currently, there are no changes anticipated for the commercial pot fishery as a result of this inclusion. We will update the fleet as more information becomes available through this process.

New Puget Sound Commercial Shrimp Webpage

Beginning in 2022, there will be a new webpage dedicated to housing information regarding Puget Sound commercial shrimp fisheries. Harvesters will be able to locate specific information about their fishery such as current regulations, up to date landings, and electronic forms used to fulfill reporting requirements. See: [WDFW Commercial Shrimp Webpage](#)

Fishing Declarations Electronic Form

All harvesters are required to declare their intention to fish both spot shrimp and non-spot shrimp. Please use the new electronic form to submit this information. You may submit declarations for up to a week of fishing at a time. To access the form, please see the '[Reporting Forms](#)' section of the new Puget Sound commercial shrimp webpage. You can also access the form by using your phone camera to capture the QR code below. You may still declare by email to shrimp.report@dfw.wa.gov. Declarations should include the following:

- Harvester contact information (name, phone, email, permit #)
- The intended area of harvest (quota area)
- Proposed dates
- Species targeted (spots or non-spots)
- Estimated Pounds targeted

This requirement is intended to give managers some additional information regarding effort across areas and facilitate market sampling of commercial catch as well as voluntary ride-along opportunities.

Declarations form link: [Shrimp Declarations](#)



Electronic Quick Reporting Form

All harvesters are required to submit a Quick Report in addition to filling out the normal required DFW Shellfish Receiving Ticket. Quick Reports should be submitted by 10:00 AM the day following all landings. Use the new electronic form available on the new Puget Sound commercial shrimp website under '[Reporting Forms](#)' or link to the form directly with your phone camera via the QR code below. You may still submit a Quick Report to Shrimp.Report@dfw.wa.gov with the following information:

- Landing Date and Landing Type (Spot or Non-spot)
- Harvester contact info (Name, phone, email, permit #)
- Quota area(s)
- Landing amount (LBS)

Puget Sound Quick Report Link: [PS Shrimp Quick Report](#)



Concurrent Use of Spot and Non-spot Gear

Harvesters are permitted to have both spot pots and non-spot pots in the water at the same time with the following restrictions:

- A harvester **may not** set non-spot and spot gear within the same catch area at the same time with the exception of catch areas with subareas (23A, 26A, 26B) or the different subregions of 1.
- All catches must be landed before subsequent trips targeting other species may occur.

Fishing Multiple Areas

Harvest is permitted within multiple Catch Areas (25A, 23A, 22A, etc.) on the same day as long as catches from those Catch Areas are accounted for on the Fish Receiving Ticket and those Catch Areas are within the same Shrimp Management Region or Subregion (1A, 1B, 1C, 2E, 2W, or 3).

As part of the recent commercial rules package update, MFSF area boundaries and lines associated with restrictions were clarified with GPS coordinates rather than land-based structures. These can be found in the updated WAC language ([link above](#)) and are formatted as decimal degrees DDD.DDDD°.

Elimination 1B-22A Fishing Delays

Historic restrictions delaying shrimp harvest until June 16 in 1B-22A (Blakely Marina to Blakely Island to Upright Head on Lopez Island to Bald Bluff on Blakely Island) are no longer in effect.

Discovery Bay Non-spot Harvest

Discovery Bay will remain closed to commercial harvest of spot shrimp but will open to commercial non-spot harvest. Please structure commercial activity around the recreational fishery whenever possible. Recreational fishing dates can be found in the table below and online (<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/shellfishing-regulations/shrimp/areas>).

Logbooks

Logbooks are required for all Puget Sound commercial shrimp harvesters. Directions for completing the logs are detailed in the first few pages of the logbook and an example of a completed log is shown on the inside of the front cover. Please record the latitude and longitude to the nearest **hundredth of a minute** for each string (or pot, if fished individually). Example: 44°56.16, 123°44.85.

Record the fish ticket serial number in the rightmost column of the log at the time of sale, or before leaving the last catch site of the day if the vessel operator holds a wholesale dealer license and is the original receiver of the catch. Record the fish ticket serial number on the same row as data for the last string of gear that is included on that fish ticket. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Please continue to use issued logbooks until all pages have been completed even across multiple seasons. Additional harvest logs will be sent, upon request, as they are needed (contact Daniel Sund at 360-302-6372 or Brad Speidel at 253-263-5560). Pull out and send in pages from your log when you are done fishing for the month. Completed log pages can be mailed to:

Commercial Shrimp Harvest Manager
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
375 Hudson Street
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Recreational Shrimp Dates

Both State Commercial and Recreational fishing opportunities are overlapping this year. We request commercial harvesters to structure their harvest plans to avoid recreational spot shrimp days whenever possible. Recreational shrimp dates are as follows:

| Marine Area | Shrimp Management Area | "Spot" Seasons in 2022 | Day of Week | Hours | Non-spot Seasons | Depth Limit |
|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| 4 | 3 | May 25 | All | All | none | |
| 5 | 3 | May 25 | All | All | None | |
| 6 - Outside Disco Bay | 3 | 5/25-28, 6/9-11, 7/7-9, 7/21-23 | Wed - Sat, Thurs - Sat, Thurs-Sat | All | TBD | 200 |
| 6 - Discovery Bay | 3-25E | 5/25 | Wed | 9 am - 1 pm | None | |
| 7 East | 1B and 1C | 5/25-28, 6/9-11 | Wed - Sat, Thurs - Sat | All | TBD | 200 |
| 7 South | 3 | 5/25-28, 6/9-11 | Wed - Sat, Thurs - Sat | All | None | |
| 7 West | 1A | 5/25-28, 6/9-11, 7/7-9 | Wed - Sat, Thurs - Sat, Thurs - Sat | All | None | |
| 8-1 and 8-2 | 2E | 5/25, 6/9 | Wed, Thurs | 8 am - noon | TBD | 150 |
| 9 | 2W | 5/25 | Wed | 8 am - noon | TBD | 150 |
| 10 - Elliot Bay* | 4 | None | | | None | |
| 10 - Outside Elliot Bay | 4 | 5/25 | Wed | 8 am - noon | None | |
| 11 | 6 | 5/25 | Wed | 8 am - noon | TBD | 150 |
| 12 | 5 | 5/25, 5/28, 6/9, 6/23 | Wed, Sat, Thurs, Thurs | 9 am - 1 pm | None | |
| 13 | 6 | None | | | 6/1 - 10/15 | 200 |

2022 Commercial Shrimp Pot Season Structure

Non-spot Shrimp

The non-spot season for all regions except 1 will open one hour before official sunrise on May 1, and continue through October 15, or until quotas are reached, whichever comes first. Region 1 will open one hour before official sunrise on April 29, 2022. Provisions to extend the season past October 15 in some areas do exist and are contingent on the percentage of shrimp carrying eggs.

Non-spot Weekly Limits

Starting on May 1 there will be a 700lbs weekly limit on non-spot shrimp for Shrimp Management Areas 1A, 1B, 1C, and 2E combined until the quotas are taken. There is no weekly harvest limit for non-spot shrimp in Regions 2W and 3. The first non-spot shrimp catch accounting period will run from May 1 through May 3 and have a 700lbs limit. Subsequent non-spot catch accounting weeks after May 3 will start each Wednesday at 12:00 a.m. and run through the following Tuesday at 11:59 p.m.

Spot Shrimp

Subregions 1A, 1C, and region 3 will open for harvest one hour before official sunrise on May 1. Harvesters are permitted to harvest up to 4,500lbs of spot shrimp between May 1 and August 2. Subregions 1A, 1C, and region 3 will remain open through September 15, or until quotas are reached, whichever comes first. Clean-up opportunities will be announced after the recreational fishery has finished if a sufficient amount of quota is available.

Buyer Reporting Requirements for Pot Caught Shrimp

As a result of daily fisher reporting requirements above, there is no buyer reporting requirement for pot caught shrimp in WAC 220-352-335. Buyers must adhere to the standard shellfish fish ticket return and reporting rules.

Reporting the Catch Area Where shrimp Were Harvested

When landings are made in any Catch Area within subregion 1A, 1B, or 1C, that catch must be reported as 1A-20B, 1A-22A, 1B-20B, 1B-21A, 1B-22A, or 1C-21A, for example. Refer to and WAC 220-320-140 for more information.

Additionally, as during previous seasons, when landings are made in Catch Areas 23A, 26A, and 26B, the subarea where landings are made must be provided on the catch reports and listed on the fish ticket.

- The subareas for 23A include 23A-E, 23A-W, 23A-S, and 23A-C.
- The subareas for 26A include 26A-E and 26A-W.
- The subareas for 26B include 26B-1 and 26B-2.

Please see the attached map for a depiction of the 23A subarea boundaries and refer to regulation WAC 220-320-140 for boundary descriptions of all the subareas.

When landings are made in the combined quota area 23A-S/23D and 23A-C/23B, fishers and buyers are required to specify which individual Catch Area the landings were made in.

To order Fish Ticket books:

Please contact fish.tickets@dfw.wa.gov.

Notice: Fishers may be contacted by Department staff while on the water and asked to provide samples of their catch for biological analysis. The samples will need to be taken directly out of the pots rather than out of the tote or hold and the pot location recorded. These samples will be used to determine the size and sex composition of shrimp.

In-season Communication:

Harvesters and license holders are directed to view the new [Puget Sound commercial shrimp webpage](#) for up to date opening and closure announcements. Communication with managers should be through email or phone using the contact information detailed below.

General reminder (from permanent regulations):

If not specified in emergency regulation 220-340-52000K, all gear regulations, area closures, and other provisions of permanent rules remain in effect. Have a great shrimp fishing season in 2022.

Sincerely,

Daniel Sund, Commercial Crustacean Management Biologist, Port Townsend
(360) 302-6732 cell

Brad Speidel, Commercial Crustacean Management Biologist, Port Townsend
(253) 263-5560 cell

Katelyn Bosley, Lead Crustacean Management Biologist, Port Townsend
(360) 302-3030 x319

cc: Aaron Dufault
Kirt Hughes
Cpt. Maurstad
Cpt. Chadwick